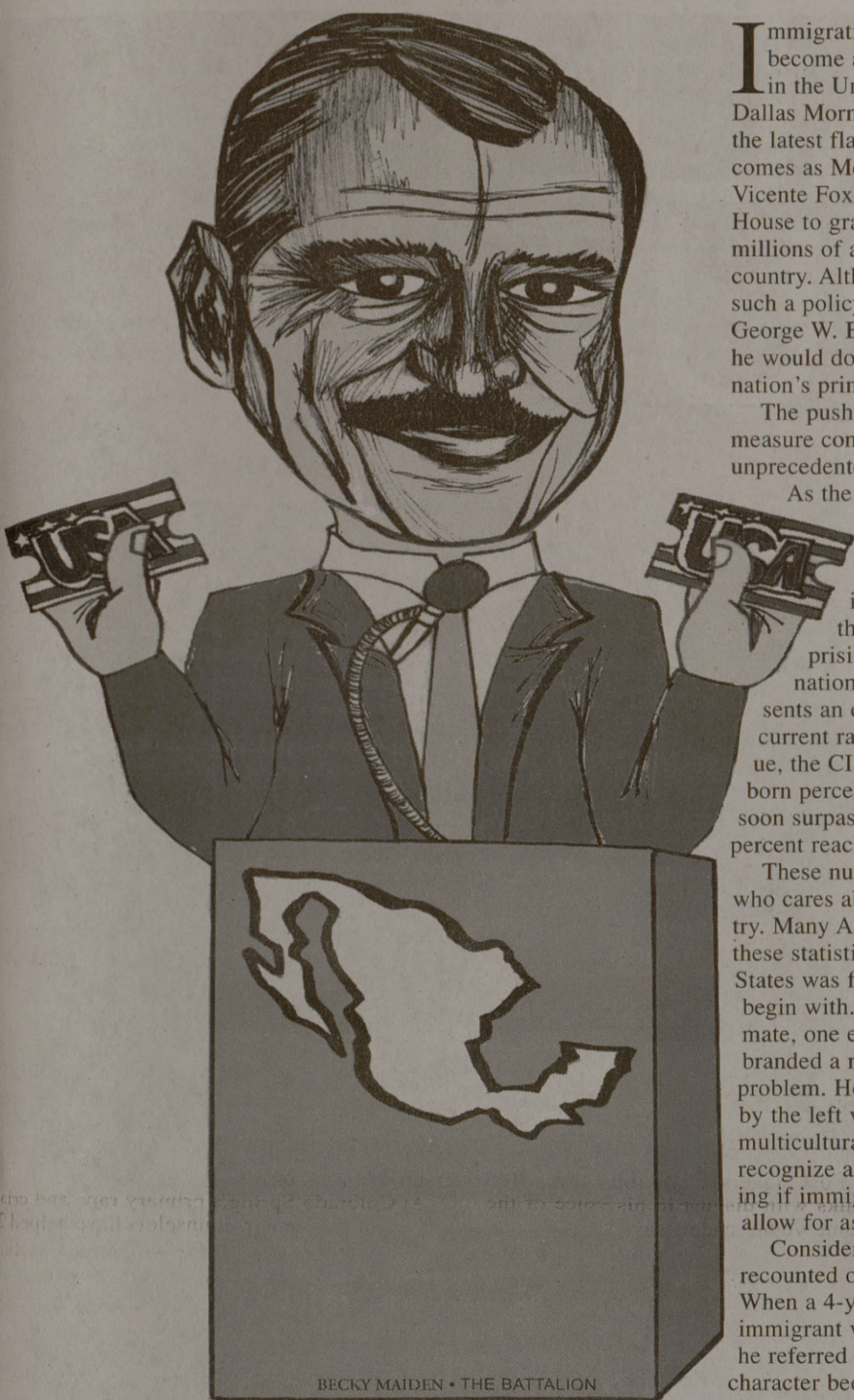


HALTING IMMIGRATION

Fox pushing Bush to grant status to illegal aliens complicates assimilation problems



Immigration has again become a contentious topic in the United States. As the Dallas Morning News reported, the latest flare-up over the issue comes as Mexican President Vicente Fox lobbies the White House to grant legal status to millions of aliens from his country. Although supporting such a policy may benefit President George W. Bush in next year's election, he would do so to the detriment of this nation's principles and unity.

The push for this alien legalization measure comes during a time of unprecedented levels of immigration.

As the non-partisan Center for Immigration Studies reveals, in the last 32 years more than 30 million immigrants have come to the United States, now comprising 11.5 percent of the national population. This represents an enormous spike. In fact, if current rates of immigration continue, the CIS estimates that the foreign-born percentage of the population will soon surpass the all-time high of 14.8 percent reached in 1890.

These numbers should alarm anyone who cares about the future of this country. Many Americans may simply brush these statistics off, saying the United States was founded by immigrants to begin with. In today's political climate, one even runs the risk of being branded a racist for declaring this a problem. However, anyone not blinded by the left wing's vacuous mantra of multiculturalism and tolerance should recognize a serious problem developing if immigration is not slowed to allow for assimilation.

Consider the following scenario recounted on National Review Online: When a 4-year-old Spanish-speaking immigrant was asked his favorite color, he referred to the red Power Ranger character because he did not know the



JERAD NAJVAR

word for "red," in Spanish or English. A teacher quoted in the article says, "It's as if they don't have a dominant language. They're not bilingual. They're alingual."

The enormous influx of immigrants in recent decades has clouded the definition of American. Because there are so many members of certain nationalities coming to the United States each year, there is less of a need for them to learn English and assimilate into the American culture. Rather, many cities are areas that are almost exclusively populated by members of a given minority group.

“Despite all the rhetoric about the supposed values of multiculturalism, this situation will only lead to unrest and disunity.”

Despite all the rhetoric about the supposed values of multiculturalism, this situation will only lead to unrest and disunity. For a society to live peacefully, members must enjoy some sort of a common identity. That is why naturalization is an essential part of any immigration policy, as the name of the Immigration and Naturalization Service implies.

This fact was not lost on previous generations of policymakers and citizens. After the immigration boom of the late 1800s, which resulted in many of the same problems emerging now, the Great Depression, World War I and new laws from Congress all resulted in reduced immigration levels. In addition,

as Mark Krekorian of the CIS says, a conscious effort of "Americanization" was undertaken by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers. For example, Henry Ford sponsored English language classes for his employees.

The result was that the immigrants came to a better understanding of American culture at the time and influenced its development themselves. In short, these new generations of Americans grew up together to form a cohesive society. Children of immigrants came to see themselves as Americans first and embraced the institutions that allowed them to prosper. However, this was only possible because immigration was slowed down.

While some of the Revolutionaries responsible for founding this nation may not have shared a common background, they did share something more fundamental. They struggled together against a tyrant to secure the basic rights of man and establish the democratic institutions they all so vehemently believed in.

To preserve this society and everything it stands for, Congress later passed the Immigration and Nationality Act. As the Heritage Foundation reports, this act stipulated that any naturalized citizen must understand English and demonstrate "a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and the principles and form of government, of the United States."

Granting immediate legal status to millions of Mexican aliens is inconsistent with this mission. To fulfill these requirements and preserve the principles and unity of the United States, immigration must be slowed, just as it was after the previous peak in the late 19th century.

Jerad Najvar is a senior political science major.

Government must develop alternative fuel

Faced with a number of options, the Bush administration should choose wisely

Oil prices have hit a 29-month high, forcing gasoline prices to rise to an average of \$1.66 and to as much as \$2.00 per gallon, according to The New York Times.

This increase of more than 50 cents compared to the average price per gallon last year is being worsened by three foreign crises. A possible war with Iraq, civil unrest in Venezuela and an oil workers' strike in Nigeria threaten to further increase the price of oil as the summer travel season approaches. Such dependence on foreign oil comes at a precarious time as the



JONNY HAVENS

United States is hoping to recover from the recent recession. Faced with these problems, President George W. Bush and Congress need to make the development of a reliable alternative fuel a top priority.

According to CNN, Bush proposed a \$1.2 billion initiative spanning five years to develop hydrogen as an energy source. According to the Office of Management and Budget's Web site, www.whitehouse.gov/omb, "hydrogen-powered fuel-cell vehicles have the potential to provide energy diversity, fuel economy and environ-

mental benefits."

However, Bush's proposal is flawed. According to the Washington Post, \$500 million of the initiative is already allocated to an existing hydrogen fuel development program. In effect, Bush is increasing funding by hundreds of millions of dollars over five years to a program of questionable effectiveness.

The plants producing the hydrogen may even be fueled by oil, according to The Washington Post. The allocated sum is also too high considering America's current dependence on foreign sources of oil and the fact that the initiative makes no mention of how the

hydrogen is being produced.

The Department of Energy classifies nine fuels as alternative fuels, so hydrogen represents only one of nine or more possible answers to the U.S. energy dependence crisis. Other options include biodiesel, electric, ethanol, methanol, natural gas and solar power. Some of these options deserve heavier consideration as they have most of the infrastructure in place to distribute a new fuel, such as cleaner burning natural gas.

In another example, the Electric Power Research Institute states that the infrastructure for electric fuel cells is already 98 percent complete.

Bush and Congress must look at all possible energy options, and then commit to the most viable one.

As gas prices rise and the political motivations tied to fuel sources become apparent, there is a greater need for a cleaner, domestic alternative fuel source.

Bush and Congress should significantly increase funding for all alternative fuels, not just hydrogen. Bold leadership is needed if the United States is to become a more energy-independent country.

Jonny Havens is a senior history major.

MAIL CALL

Fee increases needed to better Texas A&M

It shocked and left me a little disheartened when I read that the fee referendums had been voted against. What troubles me is the fact that people expect to receive world class education without paying for it. If money is the main concern in deciding which educational institution one should attend, there are cheaper alternatives than Texas A&M.

We the students have to take some responsibility for ensuring the level of greatness at Texas A&M for future generation of Aggies.

Do we want our children to use the same computers in the Student Computing Center as we did? Do we as Aggies want a second rate recreational facility in lieu of the cost of a movie ticket and a small coke? NO.

The government cannot foot the entire bill like some would want. We

must pay the price to be an Aggie. We must pay the price to be the BEST.

And if you're not interested in being the best, then take the trip down the road to that small parochial school in Austin.

*Kevin Merrill
Class of 2004*

International flavor left out of after-party

First, I want to say how beautifully International Week turned out. At the talent show I was anxiously waiting for the "party" afterwards. Lots of music from all over the world came together on one stage, and I could hardly wait to dance to these beats at the party.

So you can imagine my disappointment when I got to this so-called International Party. At first I thought

the DJ was just warming up the crowd with Missy Elliott and disco music. But no. This was all the music they had. I heard a student in the crowd say, "I could be dancing to this music in my dorm!"

I went up to the DJ and said, "Since this is an International Party, could you play some international music?" He told me that he didn't have any other music than what he was already playing. So much for bringing out the different cultures in this party. He then said that the people who asked him to do this party had asked him to play "Texas music" in his words.

I just wanted to state my disappointment in this grand finale. I absolutely loved and enjoyed the rest of the week, I just wish there had been more variety in music to dance to at the International Party.

*Blanca Obregón
Class of 2004*



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